



REPORT
ON THE
ADMINISTRATION
OF THE
DANTA STATE.
FOR THE YEAR
1934-35.

THE ADMINISTRATION REPORT OF THE DANTA STATE.

For the Year ending 31st March 1935.

CHAPTER I.

General and Political.

The Danta State is situated on the North Frontier of Gujarat and on the Southern line of Geographical position. Rajputana, in a local division called "Nani Marwar." It lies between $24^{\circ} 0'$ and $24^{\circ} 23'$, north latitude and between $72^{\circ} 40'$ and $73^{\circ} 5'$ east longitude. Its extreme length from north to south and extreme breadth from east to west are 22 and 20 miles respectively.

2. The state is bounded on the north by the Sirohi State, on the south by the Sudasana Taluka and the Gadhwada Thana (Sabarkantha Agency) on the east and south by the Idar State and on the west by the Palanpur State.

3. The country is picturesque, being almost entirely hilly with thick forest save for the southern and western portions which are somewhat plane and open. The Arvalli Ranges throw their outlying arms forming numerous hills and valleys, the highest peak "Ghodi" rising 2,817 ft. above the sea level. The hills are covered over with considerable forest-growth and, owing to the abundance of water, form a natural habitat for wild animals, viz., tiger, panther, hyena, bear, pig, etc. The country is well drained by numerous small streams which flow throughout the rainy season and empty their contents into either of the two important rivers, the "Sabarmati" and the "Saraswati". The former is the bigger of the two and for a considerable length forms the dividing boundary between the Idar and the Danta States. The latter river, though smaller, is held very sacred by the Hindus all over the Indian world. It rises from the "Menagar" hill in the extreme north, flows past the famous temple of Shri Koteswar, then runs right through the very heart of this State and subsequently enters the territories of the Palanpur and the Baroda States at a village called Mokeswar. She is also known as "Kumarka" or the Virgin river for the fact that like other rivers she does not join either the sea or a big river but disappears in the Runn of Cutch.

4. The climate is dry and temperate all throughout the year, the maximum and minimum of temperatures recorded being 106° F. and 40° F. respectively. The hot weather in summer is considerably relieved by the cool breezes of the evening and early morning. The rains break out generally at the fag end of June and continue well through July, August and September. The monsoon is at its best in August. The normal annual rainfall is over 40 inches.

Climate and Rainfall.

5. The approximate total area of the State is 347 sq. miles, and the population which is scattered in

Area, Population and Language.

about 212 villages is 26,172 persons (males 13,801 and females 12,371) according to

the census of 1931, as against 23,023 persons (males 12,087 and females 10,936) of the previous census. Thus, during the last decade the population has increased by 13 % which is an index of the prosperity, happiness and contentment of the people in general under the present regime. Out of the total population 23,143 are Hindus, 2,727 Mahomedans and 302 professing other religions. The proportion of population to area is 75 per square mile, which is low indeed, but is mainly due to a greater portion of the State being hilly and covered with jungle. The prevailing languages are Gujarati and Marwari, while the Bhil tribes have a dialect of their own which is a mixture of local Gujarati and Marwari. The Court language is Gujarati.

6. The statistical figures given in the report relate to the year ending 31st March, excepting those

Statistics.

relating to the Revenue Department which follows the old and convenient practice of

reckoning its year from November to October corresponding to the Hindu Dewali year.

The State pays an annual amount of Rs. 2,278-0-1 as Ghas Dana to the Baroda State through the British Government.

7. The Ruling Prince of Danta is the head of the Parmar clan of Rajputs of the Fire Race, being

[†]Early History.

a descendant in direct line from Emperor Vikramaditya, the epoch-making monarch

[†]List of reference Books mainly consulted in outlining the Historical Outline of Danta State.

1. "Selections from the Records of the Bombay Government" No. XII, New Series.

in the ancient history of India. The parmars, who have nearly always remained in or near the country of Malwa round Ujjain, are said to have at one time held the whole or at least a major portion of Rajputana, which fact gave rise to a popular saying “पृथ्वी परमारं तणी” meaning thereby that the earth belongs to the Parmars. Raja Dharni Varah, one of the descendants of Vikram, who ruled in Rajputana, divided his kingdom amongst his nine brothers, himself keeping only the province of Sind. This division is even to the present day referred to in Rajputana, as “नवकोटी मारवाड”. The descendants of Dharni Varah ruled over Sind in peace for more than three centuries, until the persistent and pressing invasions of Mahomedans on that province forced them to retire elsewhere. Raja Shri Jasrajji, the then Ruler of Sind, came to Mount Arasur, conquered the surrounding country and laid the foundation of the present State of Danta in 1068 A. D.

2. “Bombay Gazetteer” of Gujarat.
3. “Rasmala or Hindoo Annals of Gujarat” written by Mr. Alexander Kinloch Forbes, edited by Prof. H. G. Rawlinson, I. E. S., with historical notes, appendices, and memoir of the author, and published in two volumes by the Oxford University Press in 1924.
4. “Annals and Antiquities of Rajasthan or the Central and Western States of India” written by Lieut. Col. James Tod, late Political Agent to the Western Rajputana States, edited with an introduction and notes by William Crooke, C. I. E., I. C. S., and published in 3 volumes by the Oxford University Press in 1920.
5. “Mahi Kantha Directory” compiled by Khan Bahadur Farnroz Sorabji Master, B. A., late Deputy Political Agent, Kathiawar, and published in 1922.
6. “The Census Report of Marwar” for 1891.
7. “Memoranda on the Indian States” published by the Government of India, in 1934.

The successors of Raja Shri Jasrajji considerably extended and consolidated their domain, so much so that at one time the State included the Santpur Tehsil upto Rohira of Sirohi, a tract in Mewar as far as the present Kotra Cantonment, a portion of Idar upto Khedbrahma, eastern portion of Palanpur, Kheralu Mahal of Baroda, Gadhvara District and Sudasana estate. Of these the Jagir of Sudasana was given by the Maharana Shri Gaj Singhji to his younger brother Jaswant Singhji for maintenance in 1682 A. D., while the Gadhvara District was given in Jagir to Gadhia Koli Chiefs at varying periods for their services to the State. The Kheralu Mahal now included in the Baroda State was mortgaged to the Suba of Gujarat by Maharana Jethmalji in 1650 A. D. for financing the operations against Rao Jagannath of Idar which resulted in the latter's expulsion from Idar to Polo (now Vijaynagar in the Sabar Kantha Agency). The long protracted wars between the Roas of Idar and the Rulers of Danta during the 16th and 17th centuries had brought much ruination to the Danta State and had resulted in the dismemberment of some of its outlying districts.

During the time of Emperor Akbar, one of his sons Prince Salim having quarrelled with him had fled from Delhi. He tried to seek shelter in various States of Rajputana, but for fear of incurring the wrath of the Emperor, none dared to shelter him. At last the Prince sought refuge with Rana Shri Askaranji of Danta (then known as Tarsangmo) who readily gave him shelter as befitting a true Kshatriya. After some few years the Prince went to Kathiawar, but was seized by Rao Bharmalji of Cutch and handed over to the Emperor. The Emperor gave the district of Morbi to Rao Bharmalji for this service. However, when the Emperor and his son had been reconciled and the former acquainted with the gallant conduct of the Rana Shri Askaranji of Danta towards his son, the Emperor was so much pleased with the fact that as a mark of approbation

he soon after sent a dress of honour and granted the title of "MAHARANA" to Rana Shri Askaranji and the Prince Salim sent him his Jewelled signet ring.

8. The State had entered into political relations with the British Government in 1812 A. D.

On the outbreak of the Great European War (1914-1918) the State offered to place the entire resources of the State at the disposal of the Government, and contributed a sum of about a lakh of rupees towards the expenses of the prosecution of the war.

The Ruling Families most closely connected with Danta are those of Tehri, Narsinghgarh, Sant, Kadana and Muli, while the House of Sudasaha as stated above is its offshoot. The Ruling Family of Danta is connected by marriage with the houses of Udaipur, Banswara, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Idar, Sirohi and Dhrangadra.

9. The present Ruling Prince of Danta, Maharanji Shri Bhawanisinghji Bahadur was born on The State and its Ruler. Bhadrapad Sud 8th. Samvat year 1956 corresponding to the 13th September 1899 A. D., had his training at the Mayo College, Ajmer, and was for a number of years associated with the administration of the State before he ascended the Gadi on the 10th March 1926. The Ruler is a member of the Chamber of Princes (Narendra Mandal) in his own right.

The State is entitled to a permanent dynastic salute of 9 guns. The accession to the Gadi is governed by the rule of primogeniture. The State enjoys independent sovereign powers with full civil and criminal jurisdiction with authority to make its own legislation.

10. The Darbar's first marriage took place with the sister of Maharaj Shri Bijai Singhji of Raoti (Jodhpur); and his second with the sister of His Highness the Raja Saheb Bahadur of Sohawal State, a State under Bundelkhand Agency C.I. Both the Maharani Sahebas died in 1923, the latter leaving behind her one Maharaj Kumari Saheba; the Princess is now aged 17. The present Maharaniji Shri Champawatji Saheba is a sister of the Thakor Nahar Singhji Saheb of Auwa, a premier noble of Marwar. By her the Maharanaji Saheb Bahadur has three Maharaj Kumars and three Maharaj Kumari Sahebas. Of the three sons, the eldest Maharaj Kumar Shri Prithiraj Singhji Bahadur born on the 22nd July 1928, is the heir-apparent; and the younger Maharaj Kumar Shri Madhusudan Singhji Saheb and Maharaj Kumar Shri Raghbir Singhji Saheb were born on the 30th May 1933 and on the 4th December 1934 respectively.

Among other members of the family are Maharaj Shri Laxman Singhji aged 10 years the nephew, Maharaj Shri Dalpat Singhji aged 53 the uncle Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji aged 30 and Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji aged 28 the cousins, of the Maharanaji Saheb Bahadur. The last two named have had their training at the Mayo College and are associated with the administration of the State as Naib Dewan and Revenue Commissioner, respectively.

11. The Administration of the State is carried on under the personal guidance and direction of the General Administration Darbar, with the assistance of the Dewan.

The authority and powers of the Heads of Departments are well defined and each within his own sphere is independent of the other. In important matters, however, the Darbar is always accessible for advice and guidance; and the success and efficiency so far attained in the administration are

mainly due to the Darbar's easy accessibility and conscientious application to the affairs of the State.

12. The State is in direct political relations with the Government of India, through the Hon'ble Political relations. the Agent to the Governor General in Rajputana, and is attached to the Western Rajputana States Agency, Jodhpur.

The Political relations with the Paramount Power and the neighbouring States remained most friendly and cordial as usual.

13. During the year under report the Ruler's movement. Darbar visited the following places:—

Bechraji, Mount Abu, Sirohi, Minda (Marwar), Ahmedabad, Sanla (Marwar).

14. Among the distinguished guests Distinguished visitors. who visited Danta during the year were:—

1. H. H. the Maharao Saheb Bahadur of Sirohi State.
2. Shrimant Maharaja Kumar Saheb of Jhalawar State.
3. „ Yuvraj Saheb of Gondal State.
4. „ Rawalji Saheb of Mansa State.
5. „ Raja Saheb of Bhinai.
6. Lt. Colonel H M. Wightwick, I. A., Resident, Western Rajputana States, Jodhpur.
7. Maharaj Shri Lal Singhji, Banswara.
8. Mr. J. S. Mehta, Dewan Saheb, Banswara.
9. Shriman Thakor Saheb of Nachna (Jaisalmer).
10. „ Thakor Saheb of Sarana, Ajmer Mezwara.
11. „ Thakor Saheb of Jakhan (Jodhpur).
12. „ Bhammar Lal of Alsasir (Jaipur).

13. Rai Saheb Pandit Jumnalal, Dewan Saheb, Jaisalmer State.
14. Captain Baba Dayal Singhji Bedi, Under Secretary to the Hon'ble the Agent to the Governor General, Rajputana and Chief Commissioner, Ajmer-Merwara.
15. Mr. Mulchandbhai Asharam Shah, B.A. LL. B., Advocate (O. S.) Ahmedabad.
16. Sahitya-tirtha Pandit Jaidattaji, Sidhpur.

15. (1) The birthday of His Imperial Majesty was celebrated on the 3rd June 1934. A salute of Important events, 31 guns was fired at sun-rise and the day observed as a public holiday throughout the State.

(2) On the 11th November, the Armestice day, there was arranged as usual a complete suspension of all business for two minutes commencing from 11 a. m. as a silent tribute to all those who laid their lives during the World War in the cause of His Majesty the King Emperor.

(3) The 12th December was observed as a public Holiday being the Coronation Day of His Majesty the King Emperor.

(4) The 36th birthday anniversary of the Darbar was celebrated on the 16th September 1934 with great eclat as usual. A public Darbar was held where leading ryots, elite of the town, officers and Jagirdars had assembled to pay their homage to their beloved ruler. Sweets were distributed to the children and food and clothing to the poor and destitute people.

(5) The birthday anniversary of the heir-apparent Shriman Maharaj Kumar Saheb was celebrated on 16th August 1934 with great rejoicings.

16. Shrimati Shri Maharaniji Shri Champawatji Saheba gave birth to a son, Maharaj Kumar Shri Raghbir Singhji Bahadur, on the 4th December 1934. There were great rejoicings in the State.

17. Dr. Shivnath Singh M. Rao, M. B. B. S. (Bom.), was appointed Chief Medical Officer with effect from 1st April 1935.

Change in personnel.

CHAPTER II.

Land Administration.

For administrative convenience the State is divided into five divisions or Mahals, viz, (1) Danta, Administrative Units. (2) Mataji, (3) Hadad, (4) Tarsang and (5) Joita; each, except the first, being under the charge of a Mahalkari who is also a Magistrate. The Danta Mahal is under the direct charge of the Revenue Commissioner. One Circle Inspector or Kaltru has been appointed to each of the five Mahals. All are under the supervision of the Revenue Commissioner.

Personnel. 2. Maharaj Shri Narayan Singhji Saheb, the Revenue Commissioner remained in charge of the Department all throughout the year.

Land Revenue System. 3. The prevailing land assessment system in vogue is the Bhag-batai or share-rental system. It has by long experience been found beneficial to the conjoined interests of the State and the ryots. Its success is mainly due to the constant vigilence and efficient supervision of the Revenue Commissioner and the avoidance of delay directed by him in weighing the crops.

Nature of Tenancy. 4. All the cultivators are tenants-at-will, none of them having any permanent or vested interest in his holding, as he has no right to alienate either by way of mortgage or sale or in any other way. But so much care is taken in maintaining continuity of tenures that cultivators have continued in their

holdings from generation to generation, and transfers of land are very rare.

5. The soil in some part of the Danta and Joita Mahals is alluvial sandy, formed by the aqueous action of the rivers, and that in the other Mahals is clayey loam. The soil is on the whole rich and fertile and is capable of producing good crops.

6. The agricultural population consists chiefly of Dungri Bhills, Garassias, Kolis, Thakardas, Kunbis, Mumans and Rajputs. The Bhills and Garassias are very backward and poor agriculturists. They resort to a sort of shifting cultivation and grow only so much as would be sufficient for their wants. These people are yet in a primitive stage of life in their social and economic conditions. Attempts, however, are being made to ameliorate their condition by persuading them to stick to permanent cultivation. The Kunbis, Mumans and Rajputs are intelligent and hard-working cultivators and are generally well-off economically.

7. During the year under report the agricultural stock consisted of 8,425 oxen, 11,898 cows, including calves, 511 he-buffaloes, and 7,649 she-buffaloes including calves, 151 horses, 131 mares, 40 colts and fillies, 472 donkeys, 11,648 sheep and goats, 3,748 ploughs and 202 carts in the State. There was no serious outbreak of any epidemic among the cattle and supply of fodder was generally sufficient throughout.

8. The chief Kharif or monsoon crops grown are maize, sesamum, castor-oil seeds, coarse millets and cereals. Among the Rabi or cold-whether crops are mainly wheat, gram and rapeseed.

9. Cattle-breeding and animal husbandry form the chief subsidiary industry. This has got impetus by the presence of vast tracts for grazing and the nominal fees charged by the State for the purpose. The wealth of a cultivator is usually reckoned by the number of cattle he owns.

10. The total rainfall during the year under report amounted to 41 inches. The rainfall though sufficient, was unevenly distributed, the heavy falls being in the months of July and August.

Seasons & Outturn. As a result there were heavy floods and much damage was caused to the harvest of the preceding hot-weather crops. The Kharif or monsoon crops, too, were damaged by the water-logged conditions resulting out of incessant rains. Then again the rabbi or cold weather crops, viz; wheat, gram and rape-seed were damaged by frost in December. In short, the adverse climatic conditions prevailing during the year under report had adversely affected the seasonal yield of crops to some extent.

11. There are no irrigation tanks constructed or masonry dams put up across the current of the rivers Irrigation of Crops. in the State. By the riverside the people usually throw earthen bunds across the current and thus divert water through channels to their fields. Sub-soil water in wells is found fairly well near the surface at a depth of about 25 to 40 feet below the ground level, and a number of wells with Arath or Persian-wheels for lifting water are working all throughout the State.

12. The total number of pucca wells in the State is 565, of which 14 are sunk during the year under report. The State has always followed the policy of encouraging the ryots to sink more wells by helping them in all possible ways, viz:—

Wells.

- (1) by grant of tagavi loans with or without interest repayable by small annual instalments;
- (2) by remission of Vaje (raj-bhag) for a certain number of years,
- (3) by paying gratuitously the full expenses of construction.

13. With a view to help the ryots, tagavi advances at a low rate of interest were made to needy

Tagavi Advances.

cultivators for bonafide productive purposes, viz; for the purchase of seed, cattle, implements, sinking of wells, etc., to the extent of Rs. 2,115 during the year under report.

14. The total land revenue receipts, including past arrears, amounted to Rs. 67,125 during the year as against Rs. 62,487 of the previous year. The total expenditure of the Revenue

Department, during the year under report, amounted to Rs. 6,415.

15. Mr. R. P. Kanhere, B. Ag., Assistant Revenue Commissioner, remained in charge of the Boundary Department of the State all throughout the year.

Revenue Receipts and
Expenditure.

Personnel.

CHAPTER III.

Revenue and Finance.

Income from all sources during the year under review amounted to Rs. 1,82,431 as against Income. Rs. 1,77,100 in the previous year, which with the opening balance of Rs. 3,128, brings the total receipts of the year to Rs. 1,85,559.

2. The total expenditure during the year under report amounted to Rs. 1,80,793 as against Expenditure. Rs. 1,77,681 in the previous year, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,766 at the close of the year.

STATEMENT SHOWING RECEIPTS.

No.	Description.				1933—34	1934—35
	Balance	...	...	...	3,709	3,128
1	Land Revenue	...	...	...	62,487	67,125
2	Local Cess	...	...	...	205	250
3	Customs Revenue	...	...	...	44,792	51,293
4	Forest Revenue	...	...	...	20,575	13,807
5	Opium Revenue, Abkari Revenue including Bhang and Ganja	...	...	...	15,683	15,545
6	Stamps and Registration	...	...	...	3,406	3,551
7	Vero	...	...	...	4,988	5,006
8	Salami	...	...	...	119	119
9	Nazarana	...	...	...	1,935	2,010
10	Law and Justice	...	...	...	7,588	6,515
11	Recoveries...	...	...	...	5,472	7,419
12	Extraordinary receipts	...	...	...	2,865	3,045
13	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	3,534	4,212
14	House Site	...	...	...	3,453	2,534
GRAND TOTAL					1,80,809	1,85,559

STATEMENT SHOWING EXPENDITURE.

No.	Description.				1933—34	1934—35
1	Administration	...	...	...	42,672	42,872
2	Police	...	...	...	16,416	16,616
3	Educational Department	...	...	...	5,538	5,648
4	Medical Department	...	...	...	5,785	5,805
5	P. W. Department	...	...	...	21,478	20,545
6	Palace Expenses	...	...	...	42,632	42,542
7	Raj Kharch	...	...	...	9,638	10,552
8	Dharmada	...	...	...	4,528	4,615
9	Kamgiri	...	...	...	3,965	3,925
10	Stable, Bagikhana and Motors	...	...	...	12,108	13,648
11	Topkhana	...	...	...	1,172	1,272
12	Ghas Dana	...	...	...	2,283	2,283
13	Miscellaneous	...	...	...	3,563	4,018
14	Tagavi	...	...	...	730	2,115
15	Pension Gratuity	...	...	...	2,968	3,225
16	Unforeseen Charges	...	...	...	1,205	1,112
	TOTAL				1,77,681	1,80,793
	Closing Balance				3,128	4,766
	GRAND TOTAL				1,80,809	1,85,559

CHAPTER IV.

PROTECTION.

(1) Law and Justice.

The State has got some local laws and regulations of its own. The Courts are guided principally by those laws and follow the spirit of British Laws and Procedure both Civil and Criminal.

2. For the administration of justice there are in the State the following Courts with varying degrees of jurisdictional powers:—

I. The four Mahalkaris' Courts at Shri Mataji, Hadad, Tarsang and Joita, which are invested with powers to hear suits upto Rs. 500/- and also to exercise the Powers of 2nd Class Magistrate within their respective Mahals.

II. The Court of the State Munsiff, which is empowered to hear all kinds of civil suits relating to property and other rights as well as money transactions upto the value of Rs. 5,000/-. The Court also exercises the powers of the First Class Magistrate and is presided over by Mr. Prasankumar P. Desai, B.A. LL. B.

III. The Court of the Naib Dewan, which is empowered to hear civil suits of the value of more than Rs. 5000/- in original side upto Rs. 10,000/-. It also exercises

the powers of the District and Sessions Judge and as such has the power to hear appeals against the decisions of the State Munsiff and First Class Magistrate. It is presided over by Maharaj Shri Prithi Singhji Saheb.

IV. The Court of the Dewan, which exercises the powers of High Court. It has got unlimited Civil powers to hear all kinds of suits and is also empowered to hear appeals over the decisions of the Court of the District and Sessions Judge. It is presided over by the Dewan Mr. Ramprasad Bapalal Divanji, B. A.

V. The Hazur Court presided over by the Darbar, is the highest and the final Court in all civil and criminal matters.

3. The number of Civil suits left pending last year was five, and five fresh suits were filed during Civil Suits. the year under report. Out of the total 10 suits seven were disposed of, leaving a balance of 3 at the end of the year. The total value of fresh suits filed was Rs. 2,431-8-0.

4. The number of offences both cognizable and non-cognizable reported during the year was Criminal Cases. 123, which, with the balance of 24 of the last year, totaled 147. Out of these, 122 were disposed of and 25 remained pending at the end of the year. Out of the total number of 267 persons brought to trial 43 were acquitted or discharged, 112 were convicted, 7 were committed to the Sessions and 105 remained pending trial.

The number of Sessions cases in balance was one and 4 new cases were committed to the Sessions during the year under report. Thus, the total number of cases during the year under report was five. Out of those, four were tried and decided. leaving a balance of one at the close of the year.

The total number of persons sent up for trial was 7, out of which, 3 were acquitted and 4 were convicted.

5. There was one Civil appeal before the Hazur Court which is not decided and remained in Civil Appellate Work arrears. Four Civil appeals were lying in balance from the previous year and no new one was filed in the Court of the Dewan, during the year under review. All these are not finally disposed of and remain in arrears. The Naib Dewan and District Judge had on board 2 appeals, out of which none was disposed of and two remained pending at the close of the year.

6. There was no criminal appeal this year before the Hazur court. The Court of the Dewan had Criminal appellate work. 2 appeals on board, of which one was decided modifying the decision of the Lower Court and one remained pending. The Naib Dewan and Sessions Judge heard 7 appeals, and 6 were decided with the result that the decisions of the Lower Courts were modified in 2, confirmed in 3, and one appeal was rejected, and one remained pending.

The very small number of appeals goes to show that the contending parties found that their complaints and grievances received due and judicious consideration at the hands of original courts.

7. There were 10 applications including the balance of 7 of the last year for execution of decrees. Execution of decrees. Relief was granted to 3 to the aggregate value of Rs. 82-2-6 and 7 are pending.

8. The system of direct services of summons between this State and the neighbouring States as well Direct system of summons. as the the British Districts is in force and has worked satisfactorily.

9. Extradition arrangements for the direct surrender of offenders, between this State and the neighbouring States of Palanpur, Sirohi, Udaipur Jodhpur, with the single exception of the Idar State, are in force. The following statements give the details of extradition cases and the number of persons surrendered by and to, this state:—

Surrendered by Danta State.

	Cases.	Persons.
To British authorities	...	...
To Indian States	2	6
	—	—
Total	... 2	6

Surrendered to Danta State.

	Cases.	Persons.
By British authorities	...	...
By Indian States	5	7
	—	—
Total	... 5	7

10. The Dewan is the Ex-Officio Registrar. During the year under report documents were presented Registration. for registration, of which 14 were duly registered. The total value of the property dealt with was Rs. 1,015 and the fees realized for the registration of these documents amounted to Rs. 33-8-0 as against Rs. 59-8-0 in the last year.

(II) Police.

11. For the purposes of administrative convenience and economy in expenditure no separate Military Police. Force is maintained in the State, but the total Police force, which is 150 rank and

file, has been divided into (i) the foot-police for the maintenance of peace and order and for the detection and investigation of crime and (ii) the mounted police for similar duties and for distant patrols.

Besides this, there is an irregular Force which consists of Body-Guards, sixty in number and they are all unarmed.

The ratios of the Police force to the population and to the area come to 1 to 174.5 heads of population and to 1 to 2.3 square miles of territory respectively.

The proportion may look a little high, but the hilly nature of the country, the extended and long frontiers with foreign States all around, the turbulent nature of the hill tribes (Bhil and Garassias) inhabiting on both sides and their mischievous propensities, all these and other considerations necessitate for the State the maintenance of a strong and consolidated Police force for proper and effective bandobast.

12. The Department remained throughout in charge of Mr. Hiralal S. Joshi, the Asstt. Superintendent of Police assisted by 1 Inspector of Police and 5 Sub-Inspectors of Police posted in the different Mahals. The proper training of the Police in drill and discipline is looked after by these officers; while for the training of the Body-Guards the State has engaged the services of a war veteran (Mr. Sohan Singh) a discharged non-commissioned officer of the 13th Rajput Infantry, who has seen active life in Mesopotamia and East Africa during the Great War.

13. The Police Force is supplied with Equipment. full uniform dresses and is armed with 154 breech loading rifles.

Police Working. 14. The following statement shows the working of the police during the year under report:—

Cases reported	...	...	...	...	67
Accused arrested	...	...	...	...	89
Accused sent for trial	...	...	...	...	50
Persons convicted	...	...	...	...	37
Acquitted or discharged	...	...	...	...	10
Percentage of conviction	...	...	...	...	74

15. The total value of the property stolen and recovered during the year was Rs. 3,627-10-6 and Recovery of Stolen Property. Rs. 1,418-15-0 respectively, which gives the percentage recoveries of 39.

16. There were this year 8 deaths from various accidents Accidental Deaths. as shown below:—

Snake bite	...	...	...	...	2
Drowning	...	...	...	...	1
Burns	...	...	..	...	0
Killed by wild beasts	...	...	...	...	0
Other accidents	...	...	...	...	5
					—
				Total	8

Expenditure. 17. The total expenditure of the Police Department this year came to Rs. 16,616/- as against Rs. 16,416/- last year.

(III) Jails.

18. There are Lock-ups at Shri Mataji, Hadad, Vijlasan (Tarsang Mahal), Joita and a central Jail at Danta Bhavan-gadh. The number of persons confined during the year under

report was 41 as against 66 in the last year. The sanitary arrangements are very good and the discipline is very well maintained. Separate arrangements are made to keep male and female prisoners apart from each other.

19. The general health of the prisoners was very good throughout the year under report. They do indoor works such as grinding grain, and other manual labour. Continued efforts are made to train them to do the hand-loom work, bamboo work such as making baskets, mats, etc., and also, some garden works. It is the Darbar's keen desire to train them up and to take such work from them so that it may enable them to earn their honest livelihood after they are released from the prison.

20. The First Class Magistrate Mr. Prasannkumar P. Desai, B. A. LL. B, works ex-officio as Superintendent of Jails and the Chief Medical Officer Mr. Shivnath Singh M. Rao, M. B. B. S. (Bom.), looks after the health of prisoners.

CHAPTER V.

Production and Distribution.

The main source of production are agriculture, cattle-
Sources of Production. breeding and forests.

2. Bulk of population of the State consists of agriculturists.

Only a few who are without the means
Wages, Labour and Prices. either of land or capital and, are conse-
sequently out of employment are available
as day labourers in fields or in the Public Works Department.
The following statement gives an idea of the daily wages of
skilled artizans and unskilled labour prevailing during the year:—

Unskilled labour	...	...	...	Rs. 0—3—0
Blacksmiths	...	...	...	Rs. 1—0—0
Masons	...	...	...	Rs. 1—0—0
Carpenters	...	...	...	Rs. 1—0—0

Owing to the general and world-wide trade depression
the price of food-stuff during the year under review had
declined to some extent. The following comparative statement
gives the prices of the staple food-stuffs of the previous and
present year:—

Name of food-stuff.	Previous year.		Present year.	
		Rs. as. ps.		Rs. as. ps.
Wheat 1-7-0	1-8-0	per 40 lbs.
Bajri 1-3-0	1-3-0	"
Oats 1-3-0	1-2-0	"
Maize 1-2-0	1-0-0	"
Mug pulse 2-12-0	2-8-0	"
Udid pulse 2-12-0	2-10-0	"
Course-millets 0-14-0	0-14-0	"
Gram 1-2-0	1-2-0	"

3. The chief trade of the State consists in the export of the surplus produce of agriculture, viz., wheat, maize, gram, rape-seed, ghee, etc., and forest products, viz., bamboo, baskets, gums, honey, wax, safet musali, etc. The chief imports are sugar, cloths, salt, cereals, spices and condiments, kerosine, stationery, cutlery, brass and copper wares, etc.

4. An ad-valorem customs duty is levied on all imports and exports in accordance with the revised schedule of rates passed and put into force from 30th October 1932. The total receipt under head during the year under report amounted to Rs. 51,293 as against Rs. 44,792/- in the last year.

5. The world-wide trade depression had its repercussion here also in the form of scarcity of money, unsettled prices and a decline in the prices of food products. Moreover, the absence of a railway line running through the State is a constant hinderance to the development of the general resources of the State. Consequently, the means of transport of goods are furnished by camels, asses and bullock-carts only.

6. Practically almost all the important villages in the State have been connected with the Capital Roads. by roads freshly laid. The new roads laid out in the previous year have been considerably improved, and a new pucca metalled road from Shri Mataji, an important centre of pilgrimage in the State, to the frontier, joining that town with the railway Station of Abu Road, is being laid out with necessary culverts, bridges, drains, etc. The existing motorable road between Shri Mataji and the Capital town, Danta-Bhavangadh, has during the year under report, been considerably improved and a new alignment of a lesser gradient than in the old one has been made. Here too, where necessary, culverts and drains are being constructed. The total estimated cost of this work comes to Rs. 60,000/- nearly. Besides this, three new bridges—one on the Koteshwar Road, the second on the Kumbharia Road, and the third on the Gubbar Road—have been set up at an aggregate cost of Rs. 15,000/-. In this connection it may be mentioned that a sum of Rs. 1,045-8-0 only has upto now been allotted to the State from the Road Development Account (representing proceeds of the additional duty of two annas per gallon levied on petrol for road development). But the large sum of Rs. 60,000 mentioned above is being spent in anticipation of the sanctioning of the grant by the Government of India to the State for the construction of a pucca road from the State Capital to Shri Mataji.

The people of the State have thus been afforded the facilities of easy communications. The total length of the inmotorable roads in the State is 256 miles, out of which 135 miles are roads serviceable only during the 8 months of the fair weather, while the roads serviceable all throughout the year even during the monsoon are 121 miles.

7. Motor Lorry Services are regularly run by private individuals between Palanpur and Danta-Bhavangadh, Danta-Bhavangadh and Shri Mataji, and Shri Mataji and Koteshwar, for carrying passengers and goods. The State has given a monopoly to Messrs. Merwanji Rustomji & Co. of Mt. Abu, to run a Motor Service between Shri Mataji and Abu Road. The motor service has been regularly working from 1st March 1934.

8. The Public Works Department of the State spent an aggregate sum of Rs. 20,545/- on original Public Works Department. works and repairs, during the year under report.

9. There are great possibilities of developing the forest resources of the State by laying out plantations of valuable timber, such as teak, by extraction of catechu from Khair and by propagation and culture of lac on Khakhra trees. The reorganisation of the Forest Department, so as to make it more efficient and paying, is under contemplatiou of the Darbar.

The present sources of forest Revenue are fees charged for cutting bamboos and timber, for grazing cattle and for collecting Timbru leaves, Aval bark, gums, honey, wax, etc. The total Forest Revenue for the year under review was Rs. 13,307/- as against Rs. 20,575/- in the previous year.

10. There exist large deposits of marble of a superior grade and type in the vicinity of Shri Mataji. Quarries. It is, however, at present not worked out for lack of Railway transport facility.

11. A monopoly for the distillation and sale of country liquor for local consumption within the State limits has been granted to a private individual. The distillery is situated at the Capital from which country liquor is supplied to 22 shops for retail vend. Opium and other narcotic drugs for local consumption were imported from Government Depots at Indore and Ahmedabad. The total gross revenue under the combined head of Excise and Abkari amounted to Rs. 15,545/- during the year under report as against Rs. 15,683/- in the previous year.

CHAPTER VI.

Education.

The control of the Educational Department lies exclusively with the State. Education both primary and secondary is imparted free throughout the State. The Department was supervised General. by Mr. P. P. Desai, B. A., LL. B. throughout the year.

2. The State maintains one Anglo-Vernacular School at the Capital town Danta-Bhavangadh and Schools for Boys. 4 vernacular primary schools in the mosussil at Navovas, Motasada, Shri Mataji and Hadad. The Vijlasan school was closed during the year under report as the attendance of pupils was too scanty and the new school was opened at Motasada, the frontier station on the western border. These schools and the newly opened school are working satisfactorily and the attendance is regular. The Anglo-Vernacular School at the Capital imparts instruction in Gujarati upto VII Standard and in English upto III Standard.

3. The Girls' School was newly opened during the year under report with a fairly good number of Girls' School. fifty; the number of girls receiving education upto the last year was too scanty to maintain a separate school for them and hance the system of co-education was adopted. The increase in number shows that the parents are taking keen interest in the education of their children, boys and girls alike, which is a very good sign of advancement and material progress.

4. Moral and physical training of pupils is carefully attended to. They are paraded everyday in Moral & Physical Training. their respective classes to say the morning prayers, and two periods per week are devoted to giving them moral instructions. There is a spacious play-ground on the outskirt of the Capital, where they are daily taken out to play cricket, football and other out-door games.

5. The Head-master of the Anglo-Vernacular School at Danta is a trained hand and he has been able to introduce scouting in the Institution with considerable success. A batch of 40 boy-scouts has been well trained, disciplined and drilled. The Darbar has been pleased to equip them with uniform dresses, etc, from the State funds. A batch of 25 senior scouts was taken out on an excursion on foot to Shri Mataji during the Navratri days and had a delightful outing for nearly a week.

6. During the year under report scholarships were granted for studies outside the State, as shown below:—

- 4 for upper secondary education.
- 1 for Medical studies.
- 1 for studies in law.
- 3 for Sanskrit and Vedic studies.

7. On the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Shri Maharaj Kumar Saheb a special programme of athletic sports for boys and girls of the school was arranged. Prizes were distributed by the Maharajah Saheb Bahadur to the winners and to those who had come out successful in the annual examinations in the presence of a large gathering of officers and citizens.

Attendance.

8. The total number of pupils on rolls during the year was 241 and average daily attendance was 239.9.

Expenditure.

9. Total expenditure on education during the year under report, including the grant of scholarships, amounted to Rs. 5,648 as against Rs. 5,538 in the previous year.

CHAPTER VII.

Medical Relief and Vital Statistics.

There is one Hospital at Danta-Bhavangadh and one Dispensary at Shri Mataji. Both these institutions are entirely charitable and are equipped and maintained by the State.

2. During the year under report the Department remained in charge of Dr. Shivnath Singh M. Rao, M. B. B. S. (Bom.) Chief Medical officer, Danta State.

3. Free medical aid was given to all the patients at both the centres. Indoor patients were treated at Danta-Bhavangadh Hospital entirely at

Medical Relief. the State expenses. This year the attendance of new patients increased by 4,000. A large number of them was attracted from villages. Thus, the hospital treatment has become more popular in rural areas. The total number of attendance was 19, 986, the average daily attendance of old and new cases being 57.5 as against 30.7 in the previous year. The number of indoor patients was 82 as against 19 in the previous year.

4. More Surgical work was done this year. Not a single case was sent outside. The total number of Surgical Operations. minor operations was 561 and that of major operations was 8.

5. Principal diseases treated during the year under report were mostly of the eye, ear, throat, digestive and respiratory systems, Intestinal Diseases. parasites, local and general injuries, fevers, venereal diseases, wounds and septic ulcers.

6. There was no epidemic of small-pox, cholera, Plague, or meningitis. A few cases of malaria were, however, recorded. Free distribution of quinine was made in the State and injections of quinine were freely given at the State Hospital.

7. Five cases of dog bite occurred which were treated successfully in the Hospital. Dogs were Anti-Rabid Treatment. not found rabid, hence they were not sent out for anti-rabid treatment.

Snake-bite cases were promptly attended to and no death was reported due to snake-bite.

8. The number of cases vaccinated during the year was 829 as against 827 in the last year, with Vaccination. the lymph imported from the Belgaum Vaccine Institution.

9. The general health of the public was good throughout the year. There is no municipality in the General Health & Sanitation. State and no conservancy tax is levied. Arrangements for sweeping the streets and for removal of rubbish and refuse are made by the State through the Public Works Department.

10. The total expenditure incurred during the year for medical relief including vaccination and sanitary arrangements amounted to Rs. 5,805 as against Rs. 5,785 in the previous year. Expenditure.

11. The total number of births and deaths reported was 186 and 142 respectively. The birth and death rate per thousand of population was 7.3 and 5.4 respectively. Vital Statistics.

CHAPTER VIII.

Miscellaneous.

There are various old places of interest in the State from the religious point of view as well as from the point of view, both of architecture and natural scenery. The chief celebrated places among them are noted below:—

Shree Ambaji:—This place is a very old and holy shrine of Shri Ambaji at Mataji. The temple is dedicated to the Divine Mother and is annually visited by thousands of pilgrims from all parts of India. Fairs are held every full-moon day and during Navratri days.

Koteshwar:—This is a temple of God Shiva, situated on the hill slopes and at the source of the holy river Saraswati and is at a distance of 4 miles from Mataji. All pilgrims visiting Mataji go to this sacred place also.

Kumbharia:—These are a collection of five Jain old temples built by Vimalshah in the 11th century. They are built of local marble and contain fine specimens of exquisite carving. They are 2 miles away from Mataji. Many Jains and other pilgrims come here to pay homage to the wonderful marble images.

Mokheshwar:—A cave temple of Shiva sect on the bank of the Saraswati. A fair is annually held on the 11th day of the bright half of Bhadrapad.

Maneknath:—A cave temple on Maneknath hill in the Tarsang Mahal so called after a very famous Hindu Saint of the 15th century. A fair is held annually on Gokul Ashthami day.

Sitla Mata:—A temple near Pethapur. A fair is held at the Sitla Mata in the month of Shravan every year.

Chamundaji:—A temple near Vasi. A fair is held there in the month of Shravan every year.

2. The State is served by the Indian Post and Telegraph Post and Telegraph. Department. There is a combined Post and Telegraph Office at Danta-Bhavangadh and a Branch Office at Mataji.

3. The State maintains a Telephone system of its own, connecting important Thanas of the State to the Capital. It has greatly facilitated the administrative machinery and especially the work of the Police Department in speedily checking and detecting crimes.

4. There are three Flour Mills, one at Mataji and two at the Capital, two belonging to private enter-
Flour Mills. prisers and one to the State. All of them are working satisfactorily.

5. The foregoing account of administration is on the whole gratifying, and this is mainly due to Conclusion. the sympathetic guidance, able direction, great care and personal supervision of the Darbar to whom my most grateful and profound thanks are due. My warm appreciation and thanks are also due to the officers of the State for their hearty co-operation.

DANTA-BHAVANGADH.

Dated 22-7-1935.

R. B. Divanji.

Dewan, Danta State.

